



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 570

January Session, 2015

Substitute House Bill No. 5734

House of Representatives, April 13, 2015

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ALBIS of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING FARMERS' MARKET VOUCHERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-6q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut Farmers' Market/Senior
4 Nutrition Program which shall be provided for from funds available to
5 the commissioner and from other sources as such funds may become
6 available. The program shall supply Connecticut-grown fresh produce
7 to senior participants through the distribution of vouchers that are
8 redeemable only at designated Connecticut farmers' markets. The
9 dollar value of any such voucher shall be established by the
10 Commissioner of Agriculture, provided such value shall not be less
11 than twenty-one dollars. For purposes of this section, a "senior
12 participant" is defined as a person who is sixty years of age or older
13 and is currently residing in elderly housing, or is a participant of a
14 registered congregate meal site, or has been identified by a municipal

15 elderly agent as being at nutritional risk. The program is designed to
16 provide both a supplemental source of fresh produce for the dietary
17 needs of seniors who are judged to be at nutritional risk and to
18 stimulate an increased demand for Connecticut-grown produce at
19 Connecticut farmers' markets.

20 (b) The program shall be administered by the Commissioner of
21 Agriculture who shall maintain all conditions for its operations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	22-6q

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The title was changed.

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DAG) to establish the value of Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) vouchers at no less than \$21 each. Currently, vouchers are worth \$18.

The bill has no fiscal impact as it is not expected to increase: 1) the number of seniors served, 2) the redemption rate of vouchers, or 3) the amount of state or federal appropriations for this program.¹

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

¹ In program year 2014, DAG received \$365,062 in state appropriations and \$76,433 in federal funding for SFMNP.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5734*****AN ACT CONCERNING FARMERS' MARKET VOUCHERS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the agriculture commissioner to establish the value of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers at no less than \$21. Currently, eligible seniors receive program vouchers worth \$18.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

BACKGROUND***Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program***

By law, the agriculture commissioner must establish the program within available funds. The program must supply Connecticut-grown produce to people age 60 or older who (1) live in elderly housing, (2) participate in a registered congregate meal site, or (3) have been identified by a municipality as being at nutritional risk. Participants receive vouchers redeemable at designated Connecticut farmers' markets.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/25/2015)